

**V. REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-8 and 9 and presumptively 10, 13, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Hirata (US Patent No. 5,984,698). Claims 1 and 2 and presumptively 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Trush et al. (US Patent No. 5,425,651). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended to replace "in a vicinity of" with 'on' as shown above. In Hirata or Trush, a first conductor portion (2 middle or 30b) is NOT DISPOSED ON the first side face such that the first conductor portion (2 middle or 30b) may not be so steady as compared that of claim 1 or 9. A second conductor portion (2 side or 30a) is NOT DISPOSED ON the first side face either such that the first conductor portion 2 may not be so steady as compared that of claim 1 or 9. Since the first and second conductor portions as recited in claim 1 or 9 are disposed on the first and second side faces, respectively, they may support an inserted card firmly on the first and second faces via the first and second conductor portions.

Since such conductor portions ON the side faces cannot be anticipated by Hirata or Trush and would not have been obvious to the one in the art over Hirata or Trush, claims 1 and 9 should be in a condition for grant over the reference.

Therefore, the invention recited in claim 1 or 9 is not anticipated by Hirata or Trush. As such, claims 1 and 9 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 17-20 are directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1 or 9 and include all of the features of claim 1 or 9. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant would like to point out that the first rejection mistakenly rejects claims 4 and 6. The Office Action indicates allowable subject matter in claim 6 and claim 4 has been canceled by the previous amendment. Also, the Office

Action fails to address claims 2 and 19 but these claims are allowable for the reasons independent claim 1 is allowable.

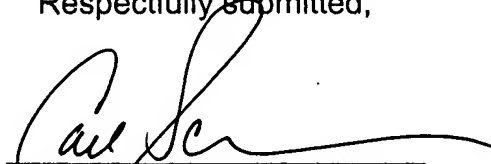
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

  
Carl Schaukowitch  
Reg. No. 29,211

**RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC**  
1233 20<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. Suite 501  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 955-3750  
Fax: (202) 955-3751  
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal

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